

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Delete the following paragraphs from page 9, last line, to page 10, line 5 which are paragraphs 24 to 37 of the published application.:

FIG. 14a shows light source focused above the surface of the layer to be ablated.

FIG. 14b shows a light source focused beneath the surface of the layer to be ablated.

FIG. 15 is an optical system for repairing a photomask. The laser beam illuminates an aperture which is then imaged above the surface of the mask.

FIG. 16 is a general optical system. A slightly converging laser beam is focused to a gaussian spot slightly above the plane of the mask.

Add the following paragraphs, deleted from pages 9-10 above to page 6 before the heading "DETAILED DESCRIPTION"

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